



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 28, 2001
VOL. 48 NO. 38

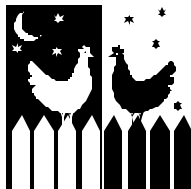
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak in the East, steady elsewhere. Retail demand was slow and unaggressive to fair, but better in the West aided by features. Food service demand covered the full range with best movement where fast food promotions were active. Supplies of smaller sizes were balanced to close, and heavier sizes were adequate to ample and frequently discounted. In the parts structure, wings were barely adequate to short and continued to have strong movement, and dark meat items were balanced with leg quarters into export short. Breast items were mixed, mostly sufficient, but may improve as first of the month approaches. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable to heavy.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 62.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 57.25 cents last year on the 29th of March, 2000.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	145.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	75.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	95.00
LEG QUARTERS	25.50
WINGS	98.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 03/24/01	2001	2000
EGGS SET	183,834	184,908
CHICKS PLACED	150,503	147,502

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 184 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 24, 2001. This was down 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 151 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 24, 2001. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week in 2000. Cumulative placements from December 31, 2000 through March 24, 2001 were 1.73 billion, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 05-May-01 IS ESTIMATED AT 155.0 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.7 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 153.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 154.0 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 55.19 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN The market tone was steady. Offerings were fully adequate with small sizes in the closest position. Retail demand was moderate to good, best to cover store ads and fast food specials. Floor stocks adequate overall. Leg quarters were firm, bone-in breasts showed some strength and balance of parts generally steady.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand was light but some optimism was reported for next week's first of the month business. Food service was fair to fairly good, best into fast food locations with promotions. Supplies were in good balance to satisfy trade needs. In the parts structure, wings continued to move well, and dark meat was usually sufficient with export interest still active. Breast items were mixed, but at least adequate for light movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings of additional product were fully sufficient on heavy sized whole fryers and Wogs and very light on smaller sized product. Demand into retail channels was slow, occasionally moderate demand noted. Food service movement was light to moderate, instances fairly good where promotions active. Floor stocks were in a full range with spot shortages of lighter weight Wogs noted in the St. Louis and Michigan areas. Sizes were desirable to heavy, mostly heavy. Parts trading was slow to moderate with the majority of players satisfied through regular commitments. Supplies of wings remained barely adequate to short, dark meat items were balanced, breast items were available and receiving some increased interest for first of the month orders. The market tone was fully steady on wings and dark meat items, all other items steady.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was slow with most dealers cautious and selective. Offerings of all sizes were fully adequate to available with the heavier birds in the longest position and often discounted in order to help stimulate movement. Retail and distributive movement was seasonal and only fair at best for ending month business. The market tone was weak on whole product. In the parts complex, boneless/skinless breast were fully adequate to ample, legs and leg quarters were clearing but reported as sufficient, and wings were irregular but generally barely adequate for needs.

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained mostly light and unaggressive. Offerings ranged adequate to ample, with 3.5 and 4 pound sizes readily available and competitively priced to stimulate additional buyer interest. Live supplies were about moderate; weights were mixed, but mostly desirable to heavy. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 52 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, wings continued to be well cleared. Boneless skinless breast were available. All other items were at least adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	44-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	55.76
NO. OF BOXES	11,753

*7 of 8 plants reporting.

MARCH 27, 2001

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 28, 2001

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

POUNDS					POUNDS				
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	882	120.00-210.00	140-149	144.83	BREAST - B/S	625	120.00-209.00	140-149	147.21
TENDERLOINS	160	145.00-215.00	-	153.75	TENDERLOINS	130	145.00-215.00	145-150	155.77
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	82	72.00-75.00	-	74.27
FRONT HALVES	140	75.00-87.00	-	81.25	FRONT HALVES	145	75.50-85.00	-	78.60
LEGS	140	32.00-41.00	34-36	36.71	LEGS	96	32.00-41.00	34-35	34.23
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	511	21.00-23.50	22-23	22.25	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	471	20.50-23.50	22-23	22.06
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,675	23.00-25.00	-	24.71	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,555	24.00-26.00	25	24.72
WINGS (WHOLE)	289	93.00-98.00	-	95.77	WINGS (WHOLE)	249	93.00-96.00	-	95.41
WINGS (CUT)	554	107.00-119.00	108-110	111.01	WINGS (CUT)	603	107.00-119.00	108-110	111.12
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	122	83.00-93.50	-	89.57	B/S THIGHS	52	92.00-93.50	-	93.21

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
48.00 - 55.25	51.75	48.00 - 54.25	50.33	51.16

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Prices were unchanged. Trucklot buying interest was slow, with offerings of boneless/skinless breast fully adequate to ample and often discounted to move. Other items were irregular, although select tenders and fronts were well cleared, leg quarters short into export channels. Party wings were reported as short but in a steady to fully steady position. Retail and distributive interest was mostly light to moderate with best movement noted where limited feature activity was a factor. Trade sentiment was irregular and a iffy steady on B/S breast, improved on select tenders, fronts, party wings and leg quarters. Balance of items were generally steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

MARCH 27, 2001

MARCH 28, 2001

CURRENT NEG				WTD	CURRENT NEG				WTD
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	130-135	133.88	720,550		BREAST - B/S	130-135	137.16	588,260	
TENDERLOINS	130-135	139.37	113,946		TENDERLOINS	130-135	139.96	84,240	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	65-66	74.04	311,240		BREAST - WITH RIBS	65-66	75.41	219,960	
BREAST - LINE RUN	65	68.30	257,200		BREAST - LINE RUN	65	67.07	224,320	
LEGS	33-34	36.84	181,240		LEGS	33-34	37.01	192,800	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	21-22	22.77	607,461		LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	21-22	23.41	413,906	
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	36.33	150,570		DRUMSTICKS	31-32	36.33	139,320	
THIGHS	30-31	35.97	107,860		THIGHS	30-31	36.26	98,050	
B/S THIGHS	87-88	89.60	55,890		B/S THIGHS	87-88	87.18	82,400	
WINGS (WHOLE)	90-91	99.36	385,600		WINGS (WHOLE)	90-91	97.64	354,240	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.02	69,200		BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.95	79,740	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.94	68,125		LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.46	61,160	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.55	84,480		GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.16	96,120	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

		AVG		AVG	
ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	WTS	ACTUAL	WTS	
03/28	03/27	03/26	03/23	03/26	03/23
ALA	3,855	3,795	3,826	3,817	5.04
ARK	5,135	5,296	4,992	4,986	4.97
DELMARVA	2,337	2,313	2,349	2,366	5.12
KY-LA-TN	1,834	1,710	1,980	1,693	4.61
MISS	2,744	2,602	2,672	2,591	5.13
NC	2,558	2,533	2,457	2,719	5.87
TEXAS	2,175	2,315	2,284	2,254	5.00
TOTAL	20,638	20,564	20,560	20,426	5.10
MON-WED61,922 (A)					60,217 (A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 28-Mar 01 and is estimated to be 30,877,000 down 0.95 percent from a week ago and up 0.6 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 30,692,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	82-85
ROASTERS 4# & UP	71-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	81
DUCKS	139

RABBITS-WHOLE
RABBITS-CUT UP

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	89-94
	DRY PACK	102
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-117
	DRY PACK	123
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91-117
	DRY PACK	123
DUCKS		152-170

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAR 31-01

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/31/01 (1)	03/24/01
THOUSAND HEAD		
BRO-FRY	154,623 (2)	153,358
LT HENS	2,090	1,958
HVY HENS	1,429	1,408
CHECK TOTAL	158,142	156,724

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 31-Mar-01 is 150.5 million head compared to 158.1 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 154.9 million head or 4.4 million more than estimated available. For week of 07-Apr-01 the estimated available is 150.1 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 26-Mar-01	126,846		60,495	
AM 1-Mar-01	103,319		62,929	
CHG	23,527		-2434	
PCT CHG	23		-4	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/26/01	03/19/01	03/27/00	03/26/01	03/19/01	03/27/00
PACIFIC						
COAST	14,650	11,433	15,746	6,233	5,989	13,217
LOS ANGELES	174	180	176	2,782	2,432	4,065

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/27/01

	LOW HIGH AVG				LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	.85	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.80	.90	.86	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.90	-	BANTAMS ea.	2.50	3.00	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.70	.90	-
PULLETS lb.	-	1.30	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	5.00	8.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.55	1.15	.85	ROOSTERS ea.	4.00	5.00	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	4.50	9.00	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	7.00	27.00	-
DUCKS lb.	.95	1.35	1.20	DUCKS ea.	-	7.50	-
RABBITS lb.	1.15	2.05	1.46	RABBITS ea.	3.50	9.00	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	8.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	6.00	7.00	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	3.00	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	5.50	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	5.00	6.25	-				

TOTAL COOPS 108

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 26 , 2001

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	56-62
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	59-69

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 23, 2001

	Whole Chickens	Legs Breasts	Necks,Backs w/Thighs	& Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	62.93	133.48	71.51	19.07	3.34	40.52
High	64.36	143.02	76.27	23.84	3.81	42.90
Mostly	63.88	143.02	76.27	19.07	3.34	40.52
SAN JUAN						
Low	58.16	133.48	90.58	28.60	5.72	45.29
High	61.97	147.78	100.11	38.14	9.53	46.72
Mostly	61.97	143.02	90.58	33.37	8.58	45.29
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	63.40	133.48	66.74	19.07	3.34	38.14
High	64.83	143.02	76.27	23.84	3.81	40.52
Mostly	63.40	133.48	71.51	19.07	3.34	40.52
BECERRA						
Low	61.02	133.48	85.81	28.60	7.15	46.72
High	62.93	152.55	100.11	38.14	9.53	50.06
Mostly	61.97	143.02	90.58	30.99	7.15	50.06

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.**POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter (Chief)
	Fax	(202)720-2403	
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman (Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(404)562-5875	
Jackson, MS	Recorded	(404)562-5856	Gary Brown (Southeast Supervisor)
	Voice	(601)965-4662	
Des Moines, IA	Fax	(601)965-4661	Mary L. Adkins (Officer-In-Charge)
	Voice	(515)284-4471	
Bell, CA	Fax	(515)284-4468	Jim Derby (Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
	Voice	(323)269-4154	
	Fax	(323)269-5926	
	Recorded	(323)260-4676	